

West Central Region Forest Pest Update – 4/17/2006

(Todd Lanigan and Bria Radtke)

Topics covered this month:

Insects:

Emerald Ash Borer/Firewood
Gypsy Moth
Pennsylvania wood cockroach
Western seed conifer bug

Diseases:

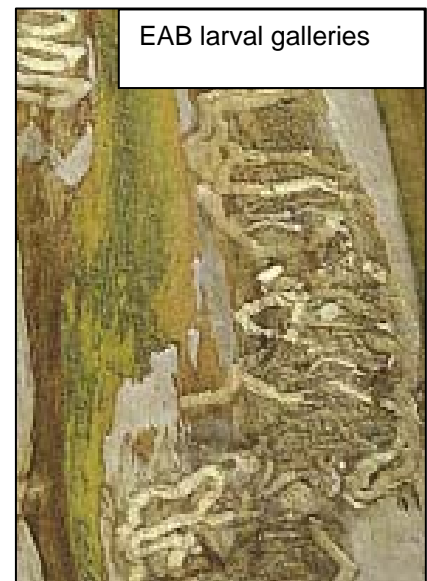
Annosum root rot
Oak wilt pruning/logging restrictions
White pine blister rust

Other: Deer ticks

Emerald Ash Borer- Firewood restriction- Out-of-state campers can no longer bring firewood from their home state to Wisconsin's public lands campgrounds. The Natural Resource Board approved the Emergency Rule on March 22, and public hearings will be held April 17th in Madison, Milwaukee, La Crosse, Eau Claire and Green Bay. All out-of-state firewood will be confiscated and destroyed by State Park or State Forest staff, and firewood from Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) quarantined areas will be inspected and the camper may be held liable for violating the federal EAB quarantine. Campers may still bring firewood from anywhere inside Wisconsin. State Parks and Forest campers can get more information at www.wiparks.net or call the firewood hotline at **1-877-303-WOOD**. More information about the emergency rule and EAB can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives> or www.emeraldashborer.info (*hit your control button and left click your mouse at the same time to get to all internet links*).

Michigan research- Ash trees removed from an infestation in Brimley State Park in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan yielded interesting new information about this exotic borer. One white ash that showed no outward signs of infestation had 99 larval galleries! In other ash trees, 75% of the larvae were found on branch crotches in the crown, and most of the D-shaped exit holes were found in the canopies of mature trees. This is more proof that visual detection of this pest is very difficult. Most of the EAB larvae that were infesting healthy trees took two years to complete their life cycle, compared to one year on stressed trees. You can read more at:

http://www.stignacenews.com/news/2006/0302/Front_page/060.html



Gypsy moth- The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is mailing out thousands of notification postcards to residents who live in or near their spray blocks. The counties with proposed treatment areas are: Ashland, Bayfield,

Clark, Eau Claire, Grant, Green, Iowa, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, Lafayette, Lincoln, Monroe, Oneida, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vernon and Vilas. Maps of the spray blocks are available at <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov>.

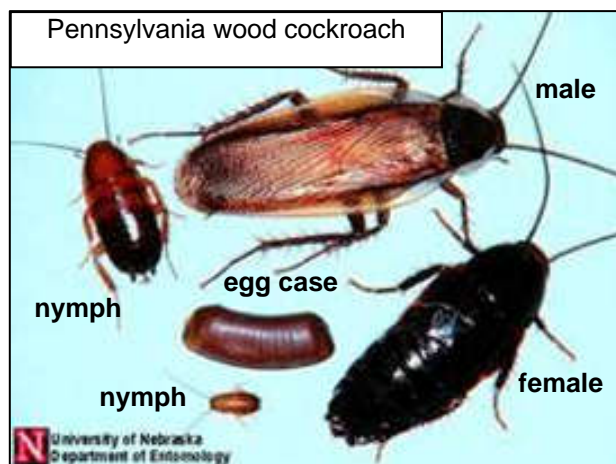
Pennsylvania wood cockroach

(*Parcoblatta pennsylvanica*) - Did you know Wisconsin has a native cockroach? The Pennsylvania wood cockroach, (aka wood roach) can't survive or multiply indoors, so you needn't panic or get out the insecticide if you encounter this accidental home visitor. The wood cockroach is native to North America and is commonly found in wood piles, under loose bark, in forest litter, trash, and under signs. Like other cockroaches, they move quickly, are

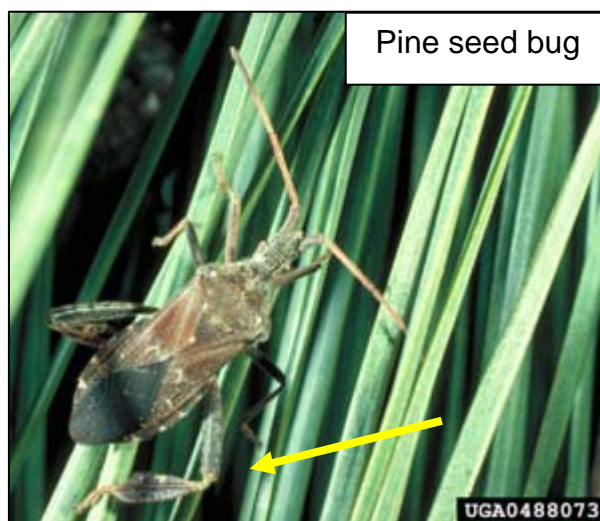
usually nocturnal and are commonly found in dark, humid areas. They are omnivorous but prefer plant material. Adults are active spring through fall. Wood cockroaches end up in homes when carried in on firewood or because they are attracted to light, and once inside they are commonly mistaken for American or oriental cockroaches. Adult wood cockroaches have somewhat flattened, oblong, dark brown bodies with dark heads, are about an inch or slightly shorter in length, and have long thin antennae. Male wood cockroaches differ from exotic cockroaches in that they have a pale brown outer margin on the thorax and front portion of the wings; females are harder to correctly identify. Cockroaches are closely related to mantids (including the praying mantis) and are one of the most ancient groups of living insects. A good comparison of different cockroaches (with photos) can be found at:

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/IC406.pdf> or

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/housingandclothing/DK1003.html>



Western conifer seed bug (*Leptoglossus occidentalis*)- These accidental house guests, also called pine seed bugs, are literally coming out of the woodwork this time of year as they become more active and try to get outdoors. Although less commonly reported than box elder bugs and multicolored Asian ladybeetles, western conifer seed bugs do show up in homes. Last fall these “true bugs” were attracted to the south and west sides of homes warmed by the afternoon sun on fall days. Then they crawled into crevices in siding and windows to seek shelter for winter.



The Western conifer seed bug is part of the “leaf footed” family, named because some species have flattened, leaf-like areas on their back legs (see arrow on photo). They are ¾ to 1 inch long, dark brownish-red, with long thin antennae and their wings folded in an X on their backs. Western conifer seed bug nymphs and adults spend the summer piercing and sucking sap from green pine twigs and cones, but rarely cause economic damage outside of seed orchards. More information can be found at:

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/iiin/pineseedbug.html> or

<http://wihort.uwex.edu/gardenfacts/X1052.pdf>

Annosum root rot -This fungal pathogen was identified in Wisconsin in 1993 causing dieback/mortality in red, white and jack pine and white spruce in thirteen counties in the south and west part of the state. Annosum is most damaging in plantation-grown conifers after thinnings. One of the identifying characteristics of Annosum is the popcorn stage of the fruit body (see photo). Generally these fruit bodies are white, but this spring Todd Lanigan found some newly forming fruit bodies that were buff- brown colored and looked more like a conk than the traditional popcorn stage. More information about Annosum can be found at:

Infected white pine with popcorn stage fruit bodies



<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/annosus/fidl-ann.htm> or

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/ORG/land/forestry/fh/fhissues/comparedoc2.pdf>

Oak Wilt – Oak wilt pruning restrictions begin in April and continue through mid-summer. Warm temperatures in early and mid-April this year guarantee that picnic beetles are active, so please advise landowners and loggers you work with to refrain NOW from pruning, logging, and otherwise wounding oaks, especially red oaks, which are more susceptible to this fungal disease. Fresh wounds are susceptible to overland infection (infection from picnic beetles) for 48-72 hours (2 to 3 days).

White pine blister rust- Todd Lanigan noticed blisters that were erupting and producing spores in Wood Co. on white pine April 12th. Bark cankers, which can be swollen or sunken, erupt in spring with light yellow-orange fruit bodies with spores that spread by wind or water splash. Currant (or gooseberry) plants, the necessary alternate host for this fungal disease, were leafing out also. For more information on white pine blister rust, see:

White pine blisters forming on branch



http://www.na.fs.fed.us/SPFO/pubs/howtos/ht_wpblister/toc.htm

Deer tick – Ticks are active now and looking for hosts. For more information go to:

<http://wihort.uwex.edu/pests/DeerTicks.htm>

God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools. -John Muir

